

Northampton Council on Aging Meeting

Thursday, June 8, 2023 5:00 pm

In Person & Virtual:

Online Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87306955068?pwd=RTcvVzFFd2s4RGV0WHFGaktHVjdUZZ09>

Meeting ID: 873 0695 5068

Passcode: 480902

COA Minutes

Call to Order: Cindy Langley called the meeting to order @ 5:01 pm

Present: Kim Park, Laura Scott, Robert Dionne, Gerriann Butler, Michael Ford, Anne “Val” Romano, Jean Henry Hoose, Cynthia Langley, & Adrienne Andrews

Review minutes & approve May minutes:

- Gerriann Butler mentioned that an excused member’s information was missing from the minutes.
- A motion was made to accept the minutes with the correction by Michael Ford & 2nd by Robert Dionne

Director’s Report:

- The grant through The Taxi, Livery & Hackney Partnership Grant Program allows us to offer \$1 rides for any purpose with Cosmic Cab, our taxi provider, to all of Northampton, Florence, Leeds, Hatfield and Easthampton. The program is being utilized by more members and they are happy with the new arrangements.
- An island has been removed and the area repaved in the parking lot.
- The replacement windows are moving forward and should be replaced late summer/early fall.
- In April, we held 79 orientations with 33 new members and 46 returning members. We provided 500 lunches during that same time period and averaged 164 per day coming into the center. We

are currently offering Italian & French classes and a Spanish class will begin in the fall. Our language classes are hugely popular. Bob Dionne mentioned ESL classes might be something to look into for the center.

- The Artist of the Month is Jackie Brodeur. We are holding an Arts Night Out reception on June 9th.
- We are offering several creative art programs including fused glass garden stakes.
- A memory cafe will begin on June 27th for people living with dementia and their caregivers. This is a collaboration with the Pioneer Valley Memory Care Initiative, Northampton Neighbors and Highland Valley Elder Services to offer this once per month event.
- The Joy of Writing class continues to be offered and enjoyed by many patrons.
- On June 9th, the city finance director and principal assessor will host a Tax Exemption Relief program at the center.
- On June 30th, the Dept of Health & Human Services will be hosting a lunch & learn to explain their programs and answer questions on their department.
- In July, we will begin an YMCA instructor-led fitness program and in August, a new YMCA yoga class.
- The Friends group will host an ice cream social in July.
- In August, Chief Jody Kasper from the Police Department will present at a Lunch and Learn event

Old Business:

- Age Friendly planning: The Age and Dementia Friendly Northampton Municipal Assessment tool was distributed to City Departments at the last Department Head Meeting.
- In September, the Senior Center will once again be participating in Northampton Neighbor's Doozy Doo Parade. The COA agreed to march and would like to encourage Senior Center members to march with them.

New Business:

- The board reviewed the information published in the Chronicle to describe their group. They were in agreement with the text and did not recommend any changes.
 - The write up used for July was distributed to COA members
- They also looked at the information on the website and would like to see only the contact information for Kim as the department head and Cindy as the chair listed. All personal emails would be removed from the site.
 - Documents used for the discussion were the NCOA Member Guide Role and

Responsibilities.

- Reference was also made to the City Administrative Code
- There was a long discussion regarding the Member Guide and changes that should be made to the guide. Cindy has volunteered to edit the guide with the recommendations before the next meeting.
- Jean mentioned that Nona Hatay will be the next artist of the month.

Gerriann would like to see that all staff members be allowed to purchase Bistro lunches at the \$5 cost regardless of age.

Next meeting moved to July 20th @ 5:00 pm

Adjournment: Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Bob Dionne and 2nd by Michael Ford

Meeting adjourned @ 6:10 pm